

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 25. Accordingly, claims 2-24 and 26 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections – Claims

Claims 2-12 and 26 were objected to as to being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended the claims as necessary to overcome the objections.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rhoads, (US 6,286,036) in view of Rui (US 7,039,199). Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 25.

4.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 13-24.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 2-12 and 26. As the Examiner has suggested, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of its base claim. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

As noted above, claims 2-5 and 9-11 have been amended in order to overcome the Examiner's objections. Consequently, the Applicant believes claims 2-12 and 26

are also in a condition of allowance. The Examiner's consideration of these claims is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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